



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Fenty and Rhee Announce a New School Achievement Award Program**

*Three schools named first recipients of a TEAM Award*

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Three District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)—Barnard, Noyes, and Tyler elementary schools—have been named the first winners of the Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) award, in recognition of their success in boosting student scores on district mathematics and reading tests by more than 20 percent during the 2006-07 school year.

TEAM is a newly created awards program, designed to honor schools that post dramatic gains in student achievement, by providing financial rewards to school personnel in recognition of their accomplishments. The program is a key part of the district's effort to attract and retain high performers. It is also designed to encourage successful teachers and principals to share their best practices with educators throughout the district to improve the achievement of all DCPS students.

"Barnard, Noyes and Tyler stand out among a number of schools that made incredible progress last year, and their success deserves to be celebrated," said Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. "The benefit of this program is that it doesn't just reward schools that already score at the very top; it rewards schools for making great improvements."

In order to win a TEAM award, a school must raise student scores on district assessments by at least 20 percent in both reading and math, with a minimum of 95 percent of students taking the tests, or they must reach 100% student proficiency in both subjects. All DCPS schools are eligible.

The program is administered by DCPS in collaboration with the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) and in partnership with the nationally prominent, non-profit organization New Leaders for New Schools (NLNS). Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education through a grant from the Teacher Incentive Fund, a federal initiative created in 2006 to support performance-based compensation for educators in high-need schools.

"It takes teamwork to produce such dramatic gains in student learning," added DC Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee. "That's why it's so important that this program rewards everyone involved, from the principal to the custodial staff. This is a new day at DCPS. We're raising the bar on achievement expectations."

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Teachers who worked at Barnard, Noyes and Tyler during the 2006-07 year will receive TEAM awards of \$8,000, with assistant principals receiving \$9,000 awards and principals receiving \$10,000. All other instructional support personnel, including librarians, counselors and social service workers will receive awards of \$4,000 each. Paraprofessionals, support staff and custodians will each receive \$2,000 awards.

“This is certainly a positive step for DC Public Schools”, said George Parker, President of the Washington Teachers’ Union. “It is critical that our teachers are recognized, rewarded, and appreciated for their outstanding service and commitment to our students. I’m very encouraged by this joint effort to reward our teachers and all local school staff in a substantial and meaningful way. They deserve it!”

In 2006-07, Barnard ES posted remarkable gains of 30.4 percentage points in reading and 33.9 percentage points in math on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS). Noyes ES saw its reading scores rise 24.9 percentage points in reading and 21.4 percent in math. And Tyler ES improved reading scores by 20.7 percentage points and math scores by 20.5 points.

“This is a groundbreaking effort to honor and leverage dramatic successes happening right here in the DC Public schools,” said New Leaders CEO and Co-founder Jon Schnur. “We are committed to making available the lessons learned from these schools to help other educators drive student achievement gains across our nation’s capital and across the U. S. ”

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